A SERIOUS ADDRESS TO THOSE WHO Profane the LORD's-DAY, BY WORLDLY BUSINESS, &c.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Creator and Lord of Heaven and Earth, the great Governor and Judge of the Univerſe, hath in great Love and Goodneſs to his Creature Man, ORDAINED, That *one Day* in Seven be ſeparated as an *holy Reſt* from WORLDLY CARE and BUSINESS; That Man, whom he has endowed with a reaſonable, immortal Soul, capable of the Knowledge, Love and Enjoyment of his moſt glorious Majeſty, ſhould be exerciſed in the *public Homage* and *delightful Worſhip* of his infinitely amiable Perfections; and by ſober Thought, and diligent Study of his bleſſed Word, might learn what his *Duty* and *Happineſs* is, and have his *Mind* fitted and prepared for the ſpiritual Service and Pleaſures of an heavenly, everlaſting State, as well as his *Body* refreſhed by a ſeaſonable Ceſſation from the common Labours of Life.

Since this is the great and good Design of the GOD of Heaven, in the ſacred Inſtitution of the Lord's-day, it is certain, that thoſe who PROFANE it by *worldly Buſineſs*, and the *Neglect of the Worſhip* of Almighty GOD, muſt be chargeable with heinous and dreadful Degrees of Guilt; and may juſtly be ranked among the *Chief of Sinners* in the ſinful Land of *Great Britain*. — Permit me, therefore, from a tender Senſe of the great Evil and pernicious Effects of your Behaviour, and a kind and diſintereſted Concern for your Happineſs, to deſire your ſerious Attention to a faithful Repreſentation of *your Guilt*, in hopes that thereby you will be induced (by the Grace of GOD) to *change* your Conduct.

I. *It is againſt the Light and Law of Nature.*

YOUR profaning GOD's holy Day by worldly Buſineſs, and the Neglect of his public Worſhip, is a Sin againſt the *clear Light and Law of Nature*. Common Reaſon ſhews, that the great and infinitely bleſſed GOD, and Saviour of Men, ſhould be *publicly* adored and worſhipped; and that ſome *convenient Time* ſhould be ſet apart to read and hear his moſt holy Word—To ſhew forth his moſt worthy Praiſe—To render Thanks for the great Benefits which we are continually receiving from his Hands—

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As well as to ask, from his merciful Goodneſs, thoſe Things which are requiſite and neceſſary for you——The Light of Nature taught the very *Heathens* to pay public Worſhip and Homage to their Gods. They frequented their Altars, kept their Feſtivals, and obſerved the appointed Days and Seaſons for honouring them: So that your Irreligion and Profaneneſs is ſhamed and reproached by the *Pagan* World; and *Greeks*, *Barbarians*, and other *Heathen* Idolaters, will riſe up in Judgment againſt you in the Great Day, and condemn you for being greater *Contemners of God* than they.

II. *It is againſt the expreſs Command of God in his Word.*

YOU Sin in direct *Oppoſition* to the *poſitive* and *expreſs Command of God.* You cannot be ignorant that GOD hath ſaid, *Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy. Six Days ſhalt thou labour, and do all thy Work; but the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou ſhalt do no Manner of Work; thou, nor thy Son, &c.* Exod. xx. 8—11. And ſo ſtrictly did the infinite Wiſdom of GOD ſee fit to inforce this Command, that *Death* was the Penalty preſcribed to the Offenders againſt it. *Ye ſhall keep the Sabbath, for it is holy unto you: Whoſoever ſhall do any Work therein, that Soul ſhall be cut off from amongſt his People;*

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he ſhall ſurely be put to death. Exod. xxxi. 14—18. And accordingly we find this Puniſhment *inflicted* on a preſumptuous Tranſgreſſor, *Num.* xv. 32—36. Now, tho' the *ſeverity* of this Precept is mitigated under the Chriſtian Diſpenſation, yet certainly the *Duty* remains, and GOD will not hold them guiltleſs, who obſtinately offend againſt it. —— And the due Attendance on *public Worſhip* is joined with the ſame Precept, under the ſame Authority. *Ye ſhall keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my Sanctuary. I am the Lord.* Lev. xix. 30. So that in *profaning* the Lord's-day, and *neglecting* GOD's Worſhip, you bid Defiance to the cleareſt *Light of Reaſon*, and alſo the *plaineſt Commands* of GOD.

III. *It is acting in Oppoſition to the greateſt human Authority.*

YOUR Guilt herein is yet more aggrayated, by acting in *Oppoſition to the Laws of the Kingdom*, under which you live. You are Contemners of thoſe *wiſe Laws* made by the King, Lords and Commons, for the Regulation of Human Society; and to which, as a faithful Subject, you ought to be obedient, not only from *civil* Reſpects, but in *Conſcience* towards GOD, who commands all Men to be *ſubject to the higher Powers*, Rom. xiii. 1. and to *fear God*, and *honour the King*, 1 Pet. ii. 17.

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So that in *profaning* the Lord's-day, you oppoſe and contemn the *higheſt Authority* of GOD and Man.——That you may ſee more of the *Evil* of your Practice under this Head, I ſhall lay before you a Clauſe of an Act of Parliament *for the better Obſervation* and *keeping holy the Lord's-day.* "Be it enacted, "by the King's moſt excellent Majeſty, "with the Advice of the Lords Spiritual "and Temporal, &c. That all the Laws "enacted and in force concerning the Ob- "ſervation of the Lord's-day, and repair- "ing to Church thereon, be carefully put "in Execution; and that all and every "Perſon and Perſons whatſoever ſhall, on "every Lord's-day, apply themſelves to the "*Obſervation of the ſame,* by exerciſing "themſelves thereon in the Duties of Piety "and true Religion, *publickly* and *pri-* "*vately*; and that *no Tradeſman, Artificer,* "*Workman, Labourer, or other Perſon* "*whatſoever, ſhall do or exerciſe any worldly* "*Labour, Buſineſs, or Work of their ordi-* "*nary Callings, upon the Lord's-day, or any* "*Part thereof (Works of Neceſſity and Cha-* "*rity only excepted) &c.*"——So that in the Commiſſion of this Evil, you ſee that you offend againſt the common *Light of Nature,* the expreſs *Commands of God,* and the higheſt *Human Authority*; which is a great Aggravation of your Guilt.

IV. *It is practical Atheism, and great Irreligion.*

YOU are chargeable herein with *practical Atheism and Infidelity.* Is not the Language of your *Actions* (which are expreſſive of the Diſpoſitions of your Heart) like that of thoſe miſerable Sinners of Old, which ſaid unto GOD, *Depart from us, for we deſire not the Knowledge of thy Ways* —— *What is the Almighty, that we ſhould ſerve him? And what Profit ſhould we have, if we pray unto him?* Job. xxi. 14. Can there be a greater Evidence that your Soul is alienated from the *Life* and *Love* of GOD; and that it reſembles thoſe *evil Spirits*, who have revolted from GOD, and loſt their Happineſs in him! Inaſmuch as you have *no Delight* in his bleſſed Worſhip and Service, but prefer the poor Concerns of this World before your Duty and Happineſs in him. Since this is the State of your Mind, What other Sentence can you expect from him at *Death* and *Judgment*, but that of *Depart from me, ye curſed, into everlaſting Fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels?* Matt. xxv. 41. Alas, without a great and thorough *Change of Heart*, you are no more fit for the State and Work of GOD's Heavenly Kingdom, than a *Brute* is fit to enjoy the Society of Men!

And then, Can you be a *Subject of the great and bleſſed Redemption* of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, who *turn away* your

Ears from Declarations of his wonderful Mercy, and employ *no Time* in ſerious thinking on his glorious Perſon, and adorable Goodneſs? Is not this to *trample* on his precious Blood and Sacrifice; and to *deſpiſe* his admirable Grace? —— Is not the Redemption of Chriſt Jeſus deſigned to *reſtore us* to the Love and Enjoyment of God, from whom we have fallen by Sin; and to ſave us from the Prevalence, as well as the Condemnation of our Iniquities? How then can you call him Lord and Saviour, who follow your *own Luſts* in Oppoſition to his ſacred Will, and are Strangers to his *ſaving Power* upon your own Hearts? While this is your State, it is certain, that whatever he is to *others*, his Redemption and Salvation has not reached *you*.

V. *It is big with the Guilt of many other Sins.*

THIS evil Conduct involves in it *the Guilt of moſt of your other Sins*, as well as the Loſs of your own precious and immortal Soul. Conſider a little, that by thus *profaning the Day* of God, and indulging a *worldly*, *covetous* Temper, your Heart grows more *hardened* from the Fear of God ——Your Affections more *indifferent* to his Love and bleſſed Service —— Conſcience grows *leſs tender*; and evil Tempers and Practices *more* and *more prevail* over you—— You are more involved in *wilful Ignorance*

of the great GOD, and his Son Jeſus Chriſt *whom to know is eternal Life*) and what you are to believe and do, in order to your Salvation: So that you are ſinking into *Infidelity*, and *Obſtinacy* of Heart——And what greater *Curſe* can there be from the eternal GOD, than that he ſhould take his HOLY SPIRIT from you, and leave you to your own *Blindneſs* and *Hardneſs* of Heart, until you ſink into endleſs Miſery and Deſtruction?

VI. *It is Infectious. The Sabbath-breaker is a Corrupter of others.*

THIS Sin not only concerns yourſelf, but you thereby *infect the Age and Place in which you live*, and are anſwerable to GOD for *other's Sins*, as well as your own——How much have you done towards the *National Profaneneſs*, and *Corruption of Manners*, which is ſo viſible among us, and has had ſo bad Effects in procuring our *National Calamities*? Your *Children* and *Servants* think that *they* may violate the ſacred Day of GOD by Authority, becauſe their *Superiors* do——Your *Neighbours* are excited, by your Example, to commit the *ſame* Iniquity; and a Number of Sinners help to keep each other in Countenance—And thoſe of your *own Calling* near you, who are diſpoſed to ſerve GOD according to his Will, and ſeek their own Salvation, are tempted to do the *ſame*, leſt you ſhould

deprive them of their Cuſtomers: So that whether you deſign'd it or not, your *Example* and *Influence* has had the Effect of a *ſpreading Leproſy*, or *Plague*; and *others* will riſe up in Judgment againſt you in the Great Day, as the *Deſtroyer* of their Souls.

VII. *It is the Fruit of a Criminal Diſtruſt of God's Word and Providence.*

THIS Sin is produced by a *guilty Diſtruſt of God's holy Word and Providence.* Did you believe what GOD hath ſaid in his *holy Word* (who is infinitely too Great and Good to *deceive* his Creatures, or ſuffer them in the End to be *Loſers* by their Duty to him) that thoſe who *truſt in the Lord, and do Good, ſhall dwell in the Land; and verily they ſhall be fed.* Pſ. xxxvii. 3. That if you *ſeek firſt* (or principally) *the Kingdom of God, and his Righteouſneſs, all other Things ſhall be added unto you.* Mat. vi. 33. That *the Curſe of the Lord is in the Houſe* (and upon the Gains) *of the Wicked; but he bleſſeth the Habitation of the Juſt.* Prov. iii. 33. I ſay, did you really *believe* theſe, and many ſuch Declarations of GOD's ſacred Word, the *Effect* would be viſible in your different Conduct. You would then hallow his *holy Day*, and reverence his *Sanctuary*, in the peaceful Hope of his Bleſſing upon your common Labours and Calling. And when you have done all, are you not *ſubject to God's juſt and wiſe Providence*, who continually pre-

ſides over *every Creature* that he has made? *Luke* xii. 24. Alas, how ſoon can he *fruſtrate* all your ſinful Endeavours after Gain? He can cauſe more *Loſſes* and *Diſappointments* to attend you in the Week, than ten Times the Value of what you have *gained* by breaking his Laws —— He can with-hold *Wiſdom* from your Heads, and *Succeſs* from your Hands, in the Callings and Labours of Life——He can conſume your Subſtance by *Fire*—Leave you to the mercileſs *Oppreſſion* and *Injuſtice* of others — Or lay you upon a Bed of *Languiſhing*, and diſenable you by painful and pining *Sickneſs*, from ſeeking the Bread of your Lives — How often does he ſend a *ſecret Blaſt* upon theſe ungodly Gains, while he gives a *viſible Bleſſing* to the ſincere and conſcientious Obſerver of his holy Day and Worſhip? So that thouſands can ſay, what the wiſe and good Lord Chief Juſtice *Hales* relates, concerning himſelf, " I have " found by ſtrict and diligent Notice, that " a due Regard to the Lord's-day hath ever " joined to it a Bleſſing upon the *reſt* of my " Time; and the Week ſo begun, hath " been *bleſſed* and *proſperous* to me. And " on the other Side, when I have been neg- " ligent in the Duties of *this* Day, the reſt " of the Week hath been *unſucceſsful* and " *unhappy*. I ſay not this lightly and incon- " ſiderately, but upon long and ſound Ob- " ſervation and Experience." So he.—Thus while *good* Men rejoice in the viſible Effects of GOD's *Bleſſing* upon them, rebellious

Sinners groan under GOD's awful *Judgments* upon them, tho' they do not always attend to the Cauſe of them. *Pſ.* cvii. 10--18. 1 *Cor.* x. 30.

And now, Sir, What ſhall I ſay more? You are fairly warned of your Sin and Danger. The Bleſſing and the Curſe is this Day ſet before you. Have you not been convinced, that it is your *Duty* to keep Holy the Lord's-day? That you ought to worſhip before him, and praiſe his Name. O then turn unto the Lord your GOD in Sincerity and Truth: Reverence and love his Sabbath, his Word, truſt his Providence, and ſeek his Mercy thro' Jeſus Chriſt with all your Hearts, and the *Bleſſing* will be yours——But if you will *yet* go on and *ſin preſumptuouſly* againſt the Lord, the *Curſe* will be your Portion: You muſt expect to be cut off with peculiar Vengeance in your Sins, as a *Deſpiſer of God*; a *Contemner of his Son*; an *Oppoſer of his Authority*; a *Corrupter of others*; and a *Deſtroyer of your own Souls*. Read with peculiar Attention thoſe awful Words of the living GOD, *The Soul that doth ought* preſumptuouſly, *the ſame* reproacheth *the Lord*; *and that Soul ſhall be* cut off *from among his People*. Num. xv. 30. *Repent therefore of thy Wickedneſs*, thou who haſt been guilty herein, *and pray God that thine Iniquities may be forgiven thee ——Calling upon the Name of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt for Mercy and Salvation —Whom God hath exalted to be a* Prince *and a* Saviour, *to give* Repentance *unto Men, and the* Remiſſion *of their Sins----And beg earneſtly of God to give you a* new Heart, *and a* new Spi-

rit, *that you may be disposed to his blessed Service here, and fitted for his glorious Kingdom above.* Acts iii. 19. ch. v. 3. ch. viii. 22, 23. Ezek. xxxvi. 26, 37. And while the Impression is fresh upon your Mind, retire to some secret Place, and most seriously offer up to GOD, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ the following Prayer.

" O most great and good, most high and " holy Lord GOD, whom all the Angels of " Heaven adore and worship; but I a vile " Sinner of the Earth have refused to do it, " and thereby have deserved thy Curse for " ever to be my Portion. Lord, pass not " that bitter Sentence upon me for Jesu's " Sake! May my Heart be touched with " Godly Sorrow for my Sins, and by the " Power of thy Holy Spirit, be truly con- " verted unto thee; that from being a *De-* " *spiser* of thy sacred Day and Worship, I " may become a serious *Observer* of both. " Enable me, O Father of Mercies, with Con- " fidence, to trust in thy good Providence in " the Way of my Duty; and preserve me " by thy Grace from returning to my evil " Ways again. Instead of fixing me as a " *Brand in eternal Horrors* to the Glory of " thy Justice, make me a *Monument of thy* " *Mercy* to the Glory of the infinite Merits " and gracious Intercession of thy dear Son " and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Our Father, &c.

FINIS.